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Letter dated 5 September 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 6 August 2002 in which I proposed, and the Security Council subsequently approved (S/2002/929), the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) for a period of one year, from 1 January to 31 December 2003.

Following consultations with the Government of the Central African Republic, during which the authorities requested the renewal of BONUCA's mandate, I wish to propose an extension for an additional year, until 31 December 2004. This extension would enable the Office to continue to support the Government's efforts to restore constitutional legality through national dialogue and to strengthen national capacities for the promotion of the rule of law during the transitional period leading up to the general elections, which are expected to take place before the end of 2004.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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